

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

I. STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claims 1-20 are pending in this application. Claim 4 has been allowed. Claims 1, 5, 7, 13, 15, 16 and 18 have been amended herewith. In particular, claim 1 has been amended herewith to further clarify that the first member of the at least one slide is connected to the tray underneath the tray by a float connection. Claim 5 has been amended to further clarify that at least one of the rails of the at least one slide mechanism is connected to the tray underneath the tray. Moreover, claim 13 has been amended further clarify that the movement device comprises at least one slide, the at least one slide comprises a first member movably connected to a second member, and that the first member is connected to the support member underneath the support member. Claim 18 was amended to remove any possible indefiniteness issues with regard to this claim.

It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been added by virtue of this amendment. Support for the amended claims can be found throughout the specification as originally filed. In particular, support for amended claim 1, 5, and 13 can be found on page 9, lines 3-5 of the present specification and in Figs. 3-5.

II. CLAIM OBJECTIONS

Claims 5, 7, 13, 18 and 19 have been objected to as lacking antecedent basis.

Specifically, claim 5 was objected to on the grounds that the expression "the at least one slide" recited in this claim lacks antecedent basis.

In response, claim 5 was amended such that the expression "the at least one slide" has been replaced with "the at least one slide mechanism".

Claim 7 was objected to on the grounds that the expression "the first direction "

recited in this claim lacks antecedent basis.

In response, claim 7 was amended such that the expression "the first direction" has been replaced with " a first direction".

Claim 13 was objected to on the grounds that the expressions "the printed circuit board" and "the second connector " recited in this claim each lack antecedent basis.

In response, the preamble of claim 13 was amended such that the expression "a printed circuit card" has been replaced with " a printed circuit board".

With regard to the expression "the second connector" recited in claim 13, Applicants note that antecedent basis for this expression is found in the preamble of this claim and thus correction is not believed to be necessary.

Claim 18 was objected to on the grounds that the expression "the printed circuit board " recited in this claim lacks antecedent basis.

In response, claim 18 was amended such that the expression "a printed circuit card" on line 3 of the claim has been replaced with " a printed circuit board".

Claim 19 was objected to on the grounds that the expressions "the floating connection" and "the support member " recited in this claim each lack antecedent basis.

In response, Applicants note that the expressions "floating connection" and "support member" are now each recited in claim 18, as amended, as a result of this claims dependency from claim 13. As claim 19 depends from claim 18, there is thus now proper antecedent basis for the expressions "the floating connection" and "the support member" in claim 19.

In view of the above actions taken and arguments made, it is respectfully submitted that the above objections have been obviated.

III. 35 U.S.C. 112, Second Paragraph

Claim 18 was rejected under 35 U.S.C., second paragraph, on the grounds that the expression " the second electrical connector as in claim 17" renders the claim indefinite.

In response, claim 18 has been amended such that the phrase "a system for connecting the first electrical connector on the printed circuit board with the second electrical connector as in claim 17" has been replaced with the phrase "a system as in claim 13 for connecting the first electrical connector on the printed circuit board with the second electrical connector". Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the indefiniteness issue regarding this claim has been resolved.

IV. 35 U.S.C. 102(b) REJECTIONS

(i) Claims 1-3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,088, 221 to Bologna ("the Bologna patent").

Initially, Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the Examiner's indication in the current Office Action that claim 4 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In response to the above claim rejections, it is respectfully asserted that the Bologna patent fails to teach or suggest all of the features recited in amended claim 1.

As noted above, claim 1 has been amended herewith to further clarify that the first

member of the at least one slide is connected to the tray underneath the tray by a float connection.

The Bologna patent relates to an apparatus for removably supporting a plurality of hot plug-connected hard disk drives 20. In particular, the Bologna patent describes, a support housing or cage 24 in which a stacked series of hot-plugged hard disk drives 20 are removably supported using carrier assemblies 60 upon which individual disk drives 20 are removably mounted. The carrier assembly 60, and the disk drive 20 mounted thereon, are slid rearwardly into the support housing to an operative position therein, using opposite side flange projections 118 which project outwardly from left and right side walls 92, 94 of the carrier assembly 60. These opposing side flanges 118 are slidably receivable in guide rail structures 64 carried on opposing side wall portions 34, 36 of the support housing 24 for mounting the carrier 60 (and thus the disk drive 20 which it supports) within the housing 24. An electrical connector positioned on the rear end of the supported hard disk drive 20 is hot-pluggable to a corresponding backplane electrical connector portion of the support housing 24 in response to a full insertion of the carrier assembly 60 into the housing 24.

As can clearly be gleaned from the above, the Bologna patent fails to teach or suggest connecting any of its sliding mechanism components for effectuating the sliding movement of the carrier assembly relative to the support housing 24, such as its guide rails 64 and/or flanges 118 to its carrier assembly 60 underneath its carrier assembly 60. Rather, the Bologna only describes providing its sliding mechanism components on the side walls 92, 94 of the carrier assembly 60 and the side walls 34, 36 of the support housing 24. Thus, the Bologna patent clearly fails to teach or suggest a first member of at least one slide connected to a tray underneath the tray as recited in amended claim 1 and therefore does not anticipate this claim.

For the reasons set forth above, withdrawal of the rejections to claim 1 is respectfully requested. As claims 2 and 3 depend from and incorporate all of the limitations of amended claim 1, withdrawal of the rejection to these dependent claims is likewise

respectfully requested.

(ii) Claims 5-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by the Bologna patent.

As mentioned herein, independent claim 5 was amended to further clarify that at least one of the rails of the at least one slide mechanism is connected to the tray underneath the tray.

For essentially the same reasons as set forth above with regard to claim 1, the Bologna patent likewise fails to teach or suggest all of the features of amended claim 5. In particular, the Bologna patent fails to teach or suggest that at least one of the rails of the at least one slide mechanism is connected to the tray underneath the tray, as recited in claim 5. Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection to claim 5 is respectfully requested. As claims 6-12 depend from and incorporate all of the limitations of amended claim 5, withdrawal of the rejection to these dependent claims is likewise respectfully requested.

(iii) Claims 13-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by the Bologna patent.

Claim 13 was amended to further clarify that the movement device comprises at least one slide, the at least one slide comprises a first member movably connected to a second member, and that the first member is connected to the support member underneath the support member.

The Bologna patent fails to teach or suggest that a first member of at least one slide is connected to a support member underneath the support member, as recited in amended claim 13. Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection to claim 13 is respectfully requested. As claims 14-17 depend from and incorporate all of the limitations of amended claim 13, withdrawal of the rejection to these dependent claims is likewise respectfully requested.

(iii) Claims 18-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by the Bologna patent.

The Bologna patent fails to teach or suggest that a first member of at least one slide is connected to a support member underneath the support member, as recited in amended claim 18. Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection to claim 18 is respectfully requested. As claims 19 and 20 depend from and incorporate all of the limitations of amended claim 18, withdrawal of the rejection to these dependent claims is likewise respectfully requested.

V. CONCLUSION

It is believed that all pending claims as currently presented are in condition for allowance. A notice of allowance is respectfully requested.

According to currently recommended Patent Office policy, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below in the event that a telephone interview will advance the prosecution of this application. An early and favorable action is earnestly solicited.



No fees are believed due with this amendment. However, if there are any fees due, then please charge them to deposit account no.: 090466.

Respectfully submitted:

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3/22/05

Date

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop: AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. BOX 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

3/22/2005

Date

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